REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on January 10, 2007. Claims 1-27 were pending in the application, and the Examiner rejected all claims, maintaining the rejection in the prior Office Action. With this amendment, claims 1 and 21 are amended, and the remaining claims are unchanged in the application.

The present system analyzes voice messages using distributed processing (i.e., non-server based processing). Voice messages are stored in a distributed manner, and analyzed by a distributed processor. This provides significant advantages over systems which are server-based. For instance, where a person's personal messages or personal voice data are stored and processed on a server, privacy concerns are presented. Similarly, where voice data is used, the voice data might include taped conversations, lectures, discussions at meetings, or a host of other information that may well be very private to the individual who recorded it. By sending this information off to a remote server for processing, or by storing it on a remote server, the security of the information can be compromised.

Therefore, the present system processes the information using a processor that is distributed. By distributed, the present specification explicitly indicates that the device is a non-server based system, such as one under the personal control of the user during runtime.

While the Examiner rejected the present claims over the Fields reference, they are neither taught nor suggested by the Fields reference. In meeting the non-server based limitation of the present claims, the Examiner cited page 8, lines 1-3 and 12-14 of the Fields reference. See page 7, section 9 of the Office Action. However, these brief statements, taken in the context of the Fields reference, certainly do not teach or suggest that the system is a non-server based system, or one which is under the personal control of a user during runtime. For instance, page 5, lines 6-7 of Fields state "the system 10 includes a server 20 preferably connected to various telecommunication systems...". Fields goes on to state that a number of the critical functions of its system are performed in the server. For instance, Fields states "if the system 10 is connected to a local network system, the server 20 may be programmed to periodically receive messages from other voicemail systems or answering machines which are not directly connected to the

server 20 ..." Fields page 5, lines 26-29. "The server 20 includes a recorder 40 for recording and storing audio data...preferably in digital form." Fields page 5, lines 34-36. "Furthermore, the server 20 preferably includes a compression/decompression module 42...so as to increase the effective data capability of a memory (not shown) of the system 10..." Fields, page 5, lines 36-40. Therefore, the Fields system is unquestionably a server-based system. Fields expressly says so.

The portions of Fields cited by the Examiner certainly do not contradict that. Instead, the first citation provided by the Examiner states "specifically, the user may program the system 10 with verbal commands either remotely, by calling into the system 10, or locally with a microphone." Fields page 8, lines 1-3, emphasis added. "In another embodiment, the system 10 may be programmed locally, through a PC and GUI screen, or programmed remotely, by accessing the system 10 through a computer network from a remote location." Fields page 8, lines 12-14, emphasis added. There is no teaching or suggestion, whatsoever, in either of these cited portions of Fields that contradict the express statement that the Fields system is server-based. In fact, the two citations are expressly discussing how the Fields system is "programmed" and are not discussing, at all, anything to do with the runtime operation of the Fields system. Thus, it simply does not teach or suggest the present invention.

Specifically, independent claim 1 reads "a voice message (VM) data store storing voice message data indicative of a plurality of voice messages; a voice data processor configured to be under personal control of a user during runtime voice data processing, coupled to the VM data store, configured to access the voice messages, extract desired information from the voice messages and augment the VM data stored in the VM data store with the desired information...". Therefore, it is clear that claim 1 states that the voice data processor is under personal control of a user during runtime voice data processing. There is nothing in the citations of Fields, asserted by the Examiner, which teaches or suggests this in any way. In fact, those citations are dealing directly with programming the device, instead of using it during runtime. The runtime discussion states that Fields is a server-based system, as set out above. Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is allowable over Fields.

Independent claim 21 is a method claim that includes "storing voice messages at a non-server based voice message (VM) data store; intermittently accessing the VM data store during runtime to determine whether a new voice message has been stored; for each new voice message, processing the new voice message at a non-server based processor, during runtime, to obtain extracted data including speaker identity...". Claim 21 thus specifically calls out a method that is used during runtime, in which the new voice message is stored at a non-server based store and processed at a non-server based processor, during runtime. Again, Fields simply neither teaches nor suggests this. The text portions cited by the Examiner neither teaches or suggest that the system is a non-server based system. That would be to directly contradict the earlier description in Fields which expressly states that it is a server-based system. Similarly, the citations asserted by the Examiner are directed to programming the system, rather than to its operation during runtime. Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 21 is allowable.

On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected dependent claims 4 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fields et al. in view of well-known art. The Examiner took Official Notice that trained speaker identification models are known. Applicant respectfully submits that, while speaker identification models, of some type, may be known, they are certainly not disclosed in the context of claims 4 and 24. Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's Official Notice, to the extent it is used to assert that speaker identification models in the context of claims 4 and 24, are well known.

In conclusion, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 21 are allowable over the references cited by the Examiner. Applicant further submits that dependent claims 2-20 and 22-27, which depend from the independent claims, are allowable as well. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-27 are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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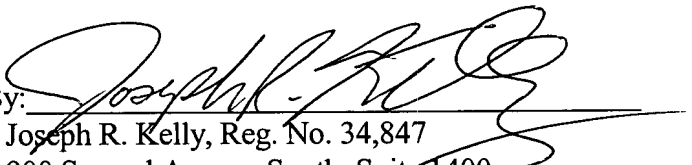

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